

## BRIEFS

### BAKERY COUPLE GETTING SUPPORT

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — Help is on the way for the Oregon couple who lost their bakery and were fined \$135,000 by the state for declining to be involved in a same sex marriage ceremony. After GoFundMe.com kicked off Aaron and Melissa Klein of Gresham when LGBT activists complained, ContinuetoGive.com picked up the campaign and has raised more than \$400,000 for the parents of five. "Every American should be free to live and work according to their faith without the government punishing them for doing so," states the Continue to Give web site.

### IORG: AMERICA ON SLIPPERY SEX SLOPE

MILL VALLEY, Ca. (BP) — Jeff Long, president of Southern Baptists' Golden Gate Seminary in California, notes that advocates for polygamous marriage are using the same arguments as LGBT activists' push for same sex marriage. "There is no legitimate legal objection [to polygamy] that can be raised if the Supreme Court's reasoning behind their recent [same sex marriage] decision is consistently applied," he wrote recently. With continuing erosion of marriage, he warns, America stands to lose the foundation for healthy families and a stable society.

### LOCAL POLS DEFY WILL OF PEOPLE

FAYETTEVILLE, Ar. (BP) — Some politicians just won't give up. The people of Fayetteville, Ar., recently spanked their city council representatives when voters repealed an ordinance that would have granted special privileges to LGBT activists — including the right to use any bathroom they choose. Undaunted, the city council rammed through another, almost identical measure. The people of Fayetteville will once again go to the polls on Sept. 8. The outcome is not much in doubt.

# Unifying Mississippi

## Christians talk race at first-ever state conf.

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Christian leaders praying for racial reconciliation among the ranks of believers in Mississippi gathered July 16-18 at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton for the first Can We Talk? Mississippi Black Church Leadership Conference.

"People came from the Delta, Gulf Coast, Hattiesburg area, and of course the Jackson Metro area," said Chris McNairy, founder of

Urban Fusion Network and facilitator for the three-day Mississippi Baptist event. "There were even people from Alabama and Tennessee. There were

black and white, young adults and senior adults, Southern Baptists, National Baptists, United Methodists, Assembly of God, and non-denominational participants."

The conference included 12 breakout sessions on topics ranging from cross-racial ministry and contextual evangelism to leadership development and stewardship. Featured speakers included:

■ Kevin Smith, teaching pastor at Highview Church in Louisville, Ky., and assistant professor of preaching at Southern Seminary, also in Louisville, Ky.

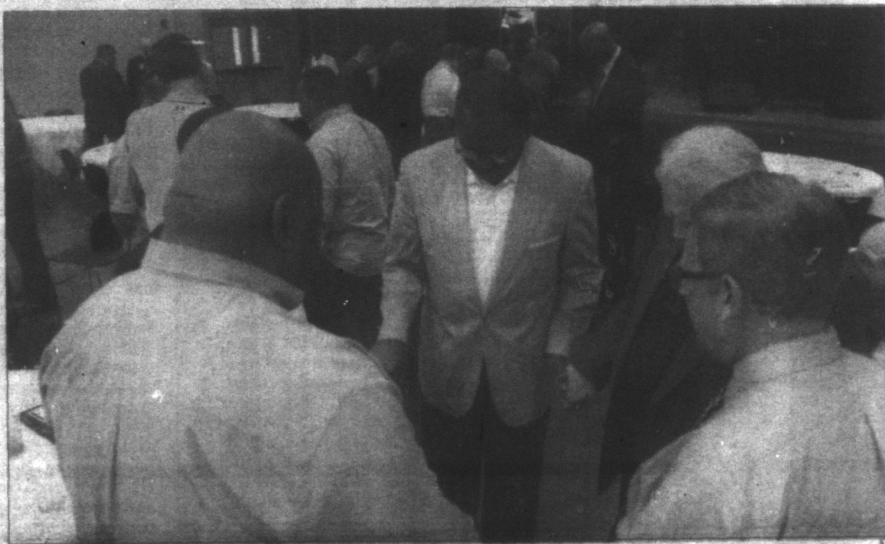
■ T. Vaughn Walker, WMU professor of Christian ministries; professor of black church studies at Southern Seminary; and senior pastor of Gethsemane Church in Louisville, Ky.

■ Kenneth Ellis, senior pastor of Northeast Community Church in Norcross, Ga.

■ Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson.

Praise through worship included the Trinity Church

see RACE on p. 5



(ABOVE) UNIFIED — Christian leaders from across the state joined hands July 16 at the Can We Talk? Mississippi Black Church Leadership Conference 2015, held July 16-18 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, to pray for unity in the cause of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**PREACHING THE WORD** — Kevin Smith, teaching pastor at Highview Church in Louisville, Ky., and assistant professor of preaching at Southern Seminary, also in Louisville, Ky., preaches July 16 at the Can We Talk? Mississippi Black Church Leadership Conference 2015. The first-ever conference of its type in the state was held July 16-18 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**OPEN FORUM** — Participants in the Can We Talk? Mississippi Black Church Leadership Conference 2015 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, attend a July 18 panel discussion on the status of race relations among the state's Christian churches. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Wrong creatures, Jason

Jason Scott Falbo II of The Acreage, FL, is in a spot of trouble.

Last week the 24-year-old pleaded guilty and received a one-year sentence in the state penitentiary for running over seven ducklings with a riding lawnmower and causing two others to drown in panic, all while on his first day of work for a landscaping company.



FALBO II

WFTV-TV in Orlando reported that Falbo apparently had no concern for the days-old, defenseless animals who were rushing behind their mother to the safety of a nearby lake. Boyd Jentzsch, the homeowner who contacted authorities about the incident, told WFTV, "He wasn't even cutting the grass. He went right toward [the ducklings] and veered to the left."

According to WFTV, Falbo reportedly told local police, "They were in my path, so I just kept mowing." Jentzsch described the scene in his yard thusly to the television station: "Body parts were scattered all over my lawn."

Morally, Falbo's action was heinous. Under the laws of the State of Florida, he committed a serious crime and must now pay his debt to society for offending the people of the state. That is as it should be.

It's just too bad he wasn't tearing apart baby humans. In America, that's permissible.

The Center for Medical Progress (CMP) in Irvine, Ca., has released an explosive set of undercover videos that inarguably validate that statement. In the nauseating videos, the highest medical officials of Planned Parenthood Federation of America casually discuss the lucrative market for body parts of babies aborted in their facilities.

Planned Parenthood physicians are even caught on CMP hidden cameras plucking out the internal organs of a freshly-aborted baby and setting prices for each organ. There's even a hint of excitement in their voices as they explain how much money they're going to make from disassembling the body of the "11-6" — a tiny boy who was 11 weeks and six days gestation.

On the videos, there are discussions on how to get around or even break federal law. The doctors talk about how to avoid "crushing" the

valuable internal organs of the baby by altering the method of abortion, which is illegal under federal law. They explain how to soothe the mother of the soon-to-be-aborted baby by telling her the fetal tissue will be used in medical research to cure diseases and advance the human race.

Are you sick yet? If not, read on. Here are a few of the reactions of Planned Parenthood and other baby killers to the CMP videos that fully show exactly what is going on in their clinics.

■ "Women in a very few places are allowed to donate fetal tissue for lifesaving medical research, research that is developing cures for Parkinson's and for Alzheimer's, even the Ebola vaccine," retorted the president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Cecile Richards. "To me, this isn't something that should be criticized or made fun of. This is laudable..."

■ "It's a war on women's health. It's not about abortion. [Planned Parenthood] is a very important health care organization, and this attack started on the day Planned Parenthood was founded in 1916..." said U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, a Democrat from California, in an interview with NBC News shortly after she helped block a Planned Parenthood defunding proposal in the Senate on August 3. (Yes, Planned Parenthood receives well over a half-billion tax dollars every year.)

■ "The fact that the attacking organizations use fraudulent and extreme tactics to spread false allegations about Planned Parenthood's role in tissue donation is theologically and morally reprehensible. The scriptures of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam strongly and repeatedly condemn dishonesty and hate. Planned Parenthood facilitates tissue donation for those who choose it, knowing that it fulfills the donor's wish and contributes to the advancement of medical research. We are grateful to everyone who chooses to donate and fully respectful of all who do not." — Statement released by the Planned Parenthood Clergy Advocacy Board.

What a country we have become. It's not enough to celebrate the slaughter of nearly 60 million babies (and counting) literally for our convenience, we are proud beyond measure that we are able to pick apart the still-breathing, still-twitching bodies of those babies and profit from it. How long, O God? How long?

## New creation possibilities

Just a couple of weeks ago, astronomers from NASA's Kepler project announced the discovery of a new planet dubbed Earth 2.0. The planet is located 1,400 light-years from Earth, and exists in a "Goldilocks" zone that could support life.

Psalm 8:3-5 reads: "When I consider the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars which you have ordained: What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned Him with glory and honor."

Whether we speculate on the possibility of extraterrestrial life like the scientist, or reflect on the majesty of God's crated heavens like the Psalmist, we all must wonder about humankind's place in the universe. What is our ultimate purpose?

The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15: "Christ's love compels us... that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised again." Surely this is our utmost purpose, but where do we find the strength to accomplish it? Again Paul writes, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone and the new creation; the old has gone, and the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The spiritual challenge for most of us is really believing that we can be made new. Life transformation is an aspiration that often seems as elusive as a "second earth" capable of supporting life. Yet Christians are asked to embrace the possibility and begin to live out its promise. As amazing as it may seem, the Scripture says we have been "crowned with glory," "filled with His Spirit," and compelled to "become His ambassadors." That is our purpose in God's plan of redemption.

The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering helps define these lofty spiritual aspirations in terms and activities that are more easily understood. The Margaret Lackey offering helps send volunteer missionaries to lost people around the world. Your gifts help prepare future missional leaders through summer camping ministries. The offering teaches people to read, provides new job skills, plants new churches, visits in jails and prisons, offers a witness to international sailors, and reaches into unchurched communities through block parties, Gospel concerts, and addiction recovery programs. Who says the possibility of a new creation is out of reach?



Guest opinion  
with David Michel

As we prepare for the 2015 state missions emphasis, pray about what God would have you and your congregation to give. Learn more the life-changing ministries of Margaret Lackey by reading and distributing the New Creation Offering Guide. View and download the video testimonies of those who lead out in state mission endeavors ([mbcb.org/mission-strategy/margaret-lackey-offering/](http://mbcb.org/mission-strategy/margaret-lackey-offering/)).

Prove that your life is being formed into a New Creation of Christ's Spirit as you give generously and speak courageously as His ambassador.

Michel is associate executive director for mission strategy at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.



ANYONE IN CHRIST IS A  
**NEW CREATION**  
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# First Person: Leave dying for God to decide

By Randy Davis  
Correspondent

The scenario plays itself out thousands of times a day. A family member or friend is racked with a terminal illness, suffering unbearably, and the question comes up. Should they have the right to physician-assisted suicide?

Unbelievably, the demand for assisted suicide is aggressively on the march. Euthanasia is currently illegal in 45 states, but 25 of those states have seen bills filed during their respective 2015 legislative sessions to legalize assisted suicide. Tennessee is one of those states, but what advocates of assisted suicide fail to recognize is God alone has the authority to give life and take it, not a human.

I do not make that statement lightly. I stood by my stepfather's hospital bed last week as he faced brain surgery to remove a tumor and blood clot. I was there with my mom who is battling Parkinson's disease. My grandfather — my hero — suffered greatly with lung cancer. I've stood by hundreds of bedsides of family and friends in 30-plus years of pastoral ministry and agonized in prayer over people I have loved dearly. I am more acquainted with death and suffering than I would have ever voluntarily chosen to be.

The conversation about assisted suicide is wrapped in emotion. Sometimes it is economic when looking at the cost of long-term care. I'll be honest — some of the situations I've stood over have rocked me to the core of my theology. However, right theology must dictate responses to circumstances. We must not allow circumstances to compromise biblical teaching. I am categorically opposed to assisted suicide, and here are the three theological pillars that brace me during soul-shattering moments at death's door.

■ **Suffering is unavoidable.** Look around. If you ever wanted a reason to hate sin, look at its effect on God's creation. Jesus, Paul, Peter, James, and John all address suffering in the New Testament and it isn't exclusively related to persecution. Job in the Old Testament is where our minds immediately turn when we think of suffering, but look again at Jesus. He could have avoided suffering. He even asked

the Father to "take this cup" from Him but in the end, He embraced the suffering for a higher purpose.

I had, and constantly have, to resolve that suffering is part of our Christian walk and we are called to persevere in faith, for the glory of God. We are told in 1 Peter 4 to embrace suffering, "so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory when it is revealed to all the world."



DAVIS

■ **God is good, all the time.** Job says it best when he asked, "Do we only accept the good from God and not the bad?" (Job 2:10). Think about this: Scripture tells us "there is no condemnation for

those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). We also read in Romans 8:28 that God works all things for our good, but how can suffering be for our good? The answer is in how we direct our suffering for God's glory.

■ **God is sovereign, and we have no right to usurp that.** Isaiah 46 states, "I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you." A few verses later we read, "For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish."

Jesus is the author of all life (Acts 2:10; Colossians 1). Psalm 139 tells us that God ordained the number of our days. Jeremiah 29 tells us He knows the plans He has for us. And on it goes.

The Bible comprehensively establishes God as the sole authority over creation, life, and death. He does everything with the purpose of completing the good work He began in us at our salvation. He intends to receive glory through our journey. That is why every breath of life is precious, and exactly why it is not our place to determine our last breath.

Yes, it is sometimes a rough journey through this life, which is why we need to encourage each other's faith all the way to the finish line. It is a joy to be on this journey with you.

A former Mississippi Baptist pastor, Davis currently serves as executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

## Tennessee struggles with legalizing assisted suicide

**NASHVILLE (BP and local reports)** — An elderly Tennessee cancer sufferer and political gadfly who has run dozens of times for state offices and the U.S. Senate is pushing the issue of physician-assisted suicide in Mississippi's neighbor to the north.

John Jay Hooker Jr., 84, a Nashville attorney known for his flamboyance, filed a lawsuit challenging Tennessee state law that makes it a felony to assist in a suicide, according to a July 10 report in Nashville's *The Tennessean* newspaper. Associated Press previously reported that Hooker, a Democrat, has terminal cancer.

The Tennessee General Assembly earlier this year assigned to a study committee a bill which would have allowed doctors to prescribe life-ending drugs when requested by terminally ill patients, effectively stalling the legislation for the near future. In May, Hooker filed his lawsuit.

Steven Hart, special counsel in the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, on July 10 argued before a Tennessee judge hearing Hooker's lawsuit that assisted suicide is not a constitutionally protected right, according to *The Tennessean*. Hart noted that 45 states prohibit assisted suicide, which also is termed by some as death with dignity, the paper reported.

Southern Baptist ethicist Ben Mitchell, provost and vice president for academic affairs at



HOOKEER

Union University in Jackson, Tn., and a former staffer at the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, addressed physician-assisted suicide in an April opinion article in *The Jackson Sun* newspaper.

He wrote that "even though in assisted suicide it is the patient who administers the lethal drug, the practice distorts the healing relationship between doctors and their patients. Doctors have an ethical duty to do what they can to alleviate suffering, but they should not knowingly involve themselves in the active death of a patient, even if the patient requests it. Doctors must not be complicit in killing their patients," Mitchell noted in the column.

Mitchell told the Baptist and Reflector, news journal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, that "one of the ironies" of Hooker's lawsuit is that he "is asking for a future right that he cannot possibly be certain he will exercise when the time comes."

"He may, in fact, choose palliative care and pain management. I hope he does, because far more physicians have excellent skills in that area of patient care than have practice killing people."

Mitchell also observed that one "does not need a constitutional right to kill oneself. What Mr. Hooker is arguing is that he has a constitutional right to have others help him kill himself. There is nothing of the kind in either the Tennessee or U.S. Constitution. His right to end his own life does not entail an obligation on others to assist him."

"Even though in assisted suicide it is the patient who administers the lethal drug, the practice distorts the healing relationship between doctors and their patients. Doctors have an ethical duty to do what they can to alleviate suffering, but they should not knowingly involve themselves in the active death of a patient, even if the patient requests it. Doctors must not be complicit in killing their patients."

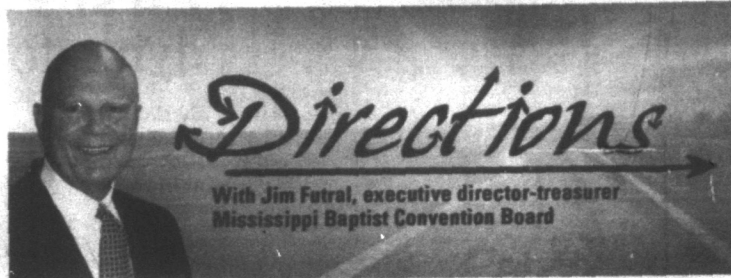
Ben Mitchell

provost and vice president for academic affairs at Union University

Whether it's a little baby trying to take its first steps, or a small calf trying to stand up for the first time, or a little sparrow perched on the edge of the nest and looking at the huge drop-off and thinking about trying to fly, growing up is not easy. When it comes to spiritual growth that too is a complicated, sometimes seemingly convoluted experience of trying to become more and become all that God wants you to be.

Peter writes about this in 2 Peter 1. He tells us that we should add to our faith experience of coming to know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Where do you go from there and what do you do beyond that? Well, Peter says add to it and he gives a whole list of additions that need to be in your spiritual life. "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity" (2 Pet. 1:5-7). It's worth the time and thought process to walk through that incredible list and see where you might be in your spiritual growth for growing up is not an easy thing.

My youngest grandson recently turned five. He was excited about growing up and he was anticipating becoming five. On his actual birthday, we were having lunch with his family and he was the star of the hour. He was enjoying it. At one point, he was sitting at the table and staring down at his feet. He looked to his mom and said, "Now when am I going to be five?" She said, "Today. This is your birthday." "But when am I going to be five?" "Well, you're five right now. Today is when you turn five years old." He looked back down at his feet and you



## Growing Up Is Not Easy

could see a puzzled look on his face of confusion, consternation, and concern. He looked back at his mother and said, "Well my feet still look four." I glanced over at his feet and sure enough he was right. They looked almost identical to what they did the day before. It's a reminder to all of us to remember that growth is gradual and usually slow.

Occasionally, you will see someone who has come to a dramatic conversion, and in a matter of weeks seems to be a spiritual giant. It may be true that they quickly acquired a lot of knowledge and information and spiritual insight about some of life's needs and scriptural expectations, but in time you begin to understand that all of these things quickly remembered have not been fully implemented in all aspects of life. It is not a criticism; it's just reality that growth is often slow.

In my yard I have some Bradford Pear trees that I planted over twenty years ago. Early on they took off, grew up, branched out, added limbs, sprouted beautiful flowers in the spring, and provided a bunch of leaves in the

fall. While Bradford Pear trees grow fast, they also begin to diminish faster than some trees. In the same yard I have some beautiful maple trees that I planted about the same time. They are nice looking trees but grow very slowly and are only a small percentage of the size that the Bradford Pears have become, yet they keep on being strong and increasing in size and beauty when their leaves turn in the fall. Not always, but sometimes the strongest growth is the slow growth.

According to Peter's instructions, we need to be reminded that growth is often compartmentalized. There are different facets of growth. To grow in virtue or knowledge, temperance or patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, love — they're all to be added but they're very different and different in the kind of impact they have on our lives spiritually. While here in 2 Peter 1, Peter is giving us his last word and he is concerned about spiritual growth, it is probably of helplessness and insight to look at his life as he talks about the spiritual increase. I

suppose of all the disciples Peter is the one of which we can be most critical, but I don't intend this to be criticism but maybe thoughtfulness for us. Two thoughts come to mind about his spiritual growth:

■ We may think we're bigger than we actually are. I think that because when Jesus was going to the cross, Peter took his stand to say he would never deny the Lord. Others may forsake Him but he would be there — dependable, loyal, committed, trustworthy, the last man standing. It did not work out quite that way.

■ The other thought is that at other times we see ourselves as far less than we really are and we allow those deficiencies and those disappointments and that stumbling and bumbling way we have sometimes to keep us from moving forward with the Lord. You see, God had in mind for Peter to be tapped as a preacher for the day of Pentecost. While you may have never messed up, you may know some folks who took a wrong turn or said something they shouldn't have or developed a bad attitude or lived in the cold, cloudy atmosphere of unforgiveness or just dramatically denied Jesus.

None of those places are places where you should stop, park on the side of life's journey, and never grow any more. Let this day — right now — be the day of new thoughts, new beginnings. Start with your sweet relationship with Jesus and today ask Him to help you grow and add to your faith, virtue and knowledge, temperance and patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. If you can't handle all of them, pick out one of them and let God do a work in your life today.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## NOBTS sets Fall 2015 classes at Jackson Extension Center

**TERRY, Ms. (Special)** — New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) will again be offering undergraduate classes in Fall 2015 through Leavell College at the Jackson Extension Center meeting at Broadmoor Church in Madison. The following classes will meet on Mondays starting on August 24:

■ **Introduction to Christian Education CECM 1300-20.** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (three hours credit). Instructor: John Pace, pastor of First Church, Terry.

■ **The Practice of Evangelism CMCM 2380-20.** 1-4 p.m. (three hours credit). Instructor: John Pace, pastor of First Church, Terry.

■ **New Testament Interpretation: The Book of Hebrews BSCM 4352-20.** 4-7 p.m. (three hours credit). Instructor: David Champagne, assistant professor of Christian studies and philosophy at Mississippi College in Clinton.

Through this extension program NOBTS offers accredited, affordable theological

### For more information

To see the cycle of classes offered, as well as other important information about the extension center, visit [nobts.edu/Extensions/LAMSCenters/Jackson1.html](http://nobts.edu/Extensions/LAMSCenters/Jackson1.html).

For further information, contact John Pace, Jackson Extension Center director at cell: (601) 559-9352; church: (601) 878-5735; or [thepacepack@nol.com](mailto:thepacepack@nol.com)

training by allowing students local access to high quality seminary education without relocating. Through the Jackson Center, students can pursue and obtain an associate in Christian ministry degree and/or a bachelor's degree.

NOBTS offers classes in a variety of formats that allows students to cater their schedule to meet their needs. Students can combine classes at the extension center with online classes, workshops,

conference-based courses, and hybrid courses to obtain the requirements needed for their degree. To see the cycle of classes offered, as well as other important information about the extension center, visit [nobts.edu/Extensions/LAMSCenters/Jackson1.html](http://nobts.edu/Extensions/LAMSCenters/Jackson1.html).

For more information or to start the application and enrollment process, contact John Pace, Jackson Extension Center director at cell: (601) 559-9352; church: (601) 878-5735; or [thepacepack@aol.com](mailto:thepacepack@aol.com); or visit [nobts.edu](http://nobts.edu).

Prospective students may also contact Norris Grubbs, regional dean for Louisiana and Mississippi, at (800) NOBTS-01, ext. 3301, or [lmextas@nobts.edu](mailto:lmextas@nobts.edu).

Students who wish to take classes for the Fall 2015 semester and have not started the application and enrollment process should visit [nobts.edu](http://nobts.edu), click on "Apply," then click on "Undergraduate Applications," then click on "Undergraduate Degree," to start the application process.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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August 6, 2015  
www.mbc.org

# THE Baptist Record

Special Edition

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

## ANYONE IN CHRIST IS A NEW CREATION

MARGARET LACKEY  
OFFERING FOR STATE  
MISSIONS MISSISSIPPI

### COMMUNITY MINISTRY

## Offering helps Lamar take Gospel to people

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Lamar Association near Purvis is making significant inroads into its communities, and they are doing it by hard work and out-of-the-box thinking. Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering funds aid them in their work. "We partner with our churches," said Danny Henderson, associational missions director. "If they want to do an outreach event, we do a full block party. We do what we call a free yard giveaway. We have a missions center, and we can provide clothing as a giveaway. We did an event at Richburg Church back in mid-July with the free yard giveaway. This was our second year there."

At this particular event, eight churches participated. Twenty-seven volunteers helped 71 residents, with a total of 98 people present. One hundred seven bags of supplies were distributed, with the bags being worth a total of \$5,350. Reports state that many people from the community were ministered to and several were prayed for.

"At our block parties, I help with concessions," Henderson said. "We have hot dogs, snow cones, and popcorn, and we have a jump house. Some ladies who work through our missions center have a separate children's venue and provide a Gospel presentation with Gospel bracelets. We have Gideons present who provide New Testaments for the kids. We average about thirty kids per venue. Our overseer for the missions center oversees the free yard giveaway."

The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering helps provide for supplies and concessions. "For instance, it pays for our coloring sheets and crayons needed for the children. We



**SOWING SEEDS** - Two girls beam with excitement after they receive bags of supplies provided at a block party hosted by Richburg Church in Lamar Association. The association provides the resources needed to make the block parties a success, through gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. (BR special photo)

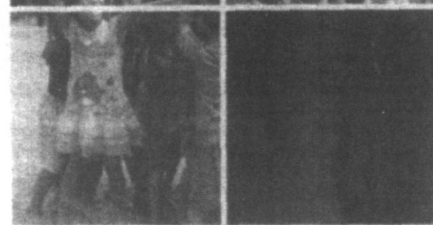
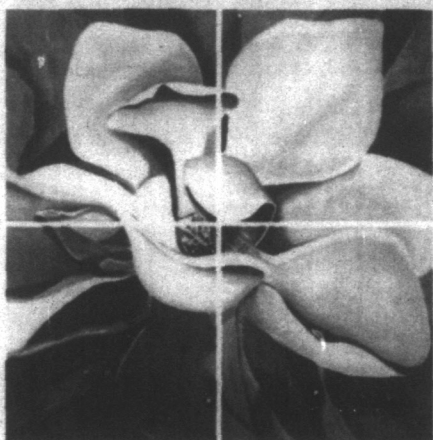
have Gospel coloring sheets, and it also buys materials for the bracelets," Henderson said.

"The biggest surprise we've had in the four years we've been doing this is how it's grown," Henderson continued. "The first two years we were in six apartment complexes, and we're still in those. Then, all of a sudden, January of this year comes along and now churches are saying, 'Hey, can you come into our communities and partner with us?' We ask what they want us to do, and they say, 'We want you to do in our communities what you are doing in those apartment complexes.' So this year it looks like we will have participated in ten events with ten different churches. That's pretty good."

"Now, that's broadcasting seeds and we don't know where those are going to come out, but we're staying in the apartment complexes because those are cultivated fields. To push that along, I am partnering one of our churches with each one of these complexes and ask them to plan at least one quarterly event. Then their church or any that wants to partner with them does a block party and a free yard giveaway."

"Again, Margaret Lackey helps pay for those supplies. We may also do a car wash or something like that. It's all about cultivating relationships."

"God keeps the ball rolling," Henderson stated. "We've had professions of faith at every event because of that. We're just cultivating what's been planted."



OFFERING  
GOAL:  
\$2 MILLION

ALL  
334  
ALL IN  
324



### Mission Volunteers | \$675,000

Mississippi Baptist volunteers served in 23 states and 77 nations in 2015. Margaret Lackey connects our churches to Southern Baptist missionaries in North America and around the world. A \$500 gift can assist a volunteer to engage a Southeast Asian people group. Contact Ken Rhodes or Beverly Bridges at 800.748.1651 or 601.292.3239 for more information.

### Garaywa | \$380,000

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center provided missional training and inspiration for more than 6,500 persons last year. Over 1,300 girls attended Summer Camp and 15 made professions of faith in Christ. A \$175 gift sends a youngster to camp. Jessica Morrison has more information: 601.924.7034.

### Central Hills | \$380,000

Margaret Lackey helps keep camp affordable for almost 5,000 campers. Every camper, adult, and volunteer is invited to consider Jesus Christ as Savior, to grow in their faith, and to take the gospel to others. A \$200 gift provides a camp pastor and missionary speaker. For more information contact Don Gann: 601.292.3339.

### Community Ministry | \$175,000

Margaret Lackey grants help fund mission projects in communities and churches all across our state. Associational Mission Directors identify local needs, design missional responses, and facilitate the activities. A \$100 gift rents a jump house for a block party. Talk to your local AMD or call David Michel for more information: 800.748.1651.

### New Church Starts | \$175,000

Almost 2 million Mississippians are unchurched. Margaret Lackey gifts help assess and train church planters who are reaching people with the Gospel and engaging them in new communities of faith. A \$250 gift can provide the weekly rent needed for a new church to have a place to meet. Johnny Ervin has more information at 800.748.1651 or 601.292.3361.

### Disaster Relief | \$60,000

Margaret Lackey gifts are vital in Disaster Relief Response. Teams of trained volunteers respond rapidly to bring help, hope and healing to those disrupted by disasters. Gifts provide meals for victims, fuel for chainsaws, tarps for roofs, and prayers for the brokenhearted. A gift of \$50 provides 10 hot meals prepared by volunteers. For more information contact Don Gann 601.292.3339.

## COMMUNITY MINISTRY



**REAL LABOR** – Students from Harmony Hill Church in Burnsville (Tishomingo Association) work on the community center at a coastal mobile home park through the ministry of Partnership Gulf Coast. The students also led in Backyard Bible Clubs during their week of service. The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering helped fund those mission opportunities. (Photo by Tony Martin)

## Partnership Gulf Coast ministry making impact

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Partnership Gulf Coast (PGC), a ministry sponsored by Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport, is making a significant difference in lives of those living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"The excitement from ministry within a church's community has helped keep some of our 'at-risk' churches alive," said Dionne Williams, associate missions director. "They are now beginning to see a little light at the end of the tunnel as God has blessed with new membership and members."

One PGC success story is Brian Schoolcraft, who is working in a manufactured home community and is director of the mission work there. "We moved into the neighborhood when I was a seminary student, out of economic need," Schoolcraft said. "Our church had been trying to find outreach opportunities in the neighborhood, so we started a food basket ministry. Partnership Gulf Coast came along the following summer, and it gave us ways to do follow-up on the people who'd received food baskets."

The ministry blossomed. "We started Backyard Bible Clubs. We had 200 people at our first block party. After that, the property was bought by a new landlord. She said, 'We really like what you're doing, but we'd like to do more. We want a community center. We don't have any money but we have ten acres, and we'll let you use that property however you want. Keep your buildings on five of those acres.' They've given us carte blanche to do whatever we want."

The owner wanted a playground. Schoolcraft said they also had plans for disc golf, volleyball, even baseball. Schoolcraft was able to purchase ten trailers to use for the community center. He bought them for \$1,000 and was able to sell eight of those for \$1,000 within four hours.

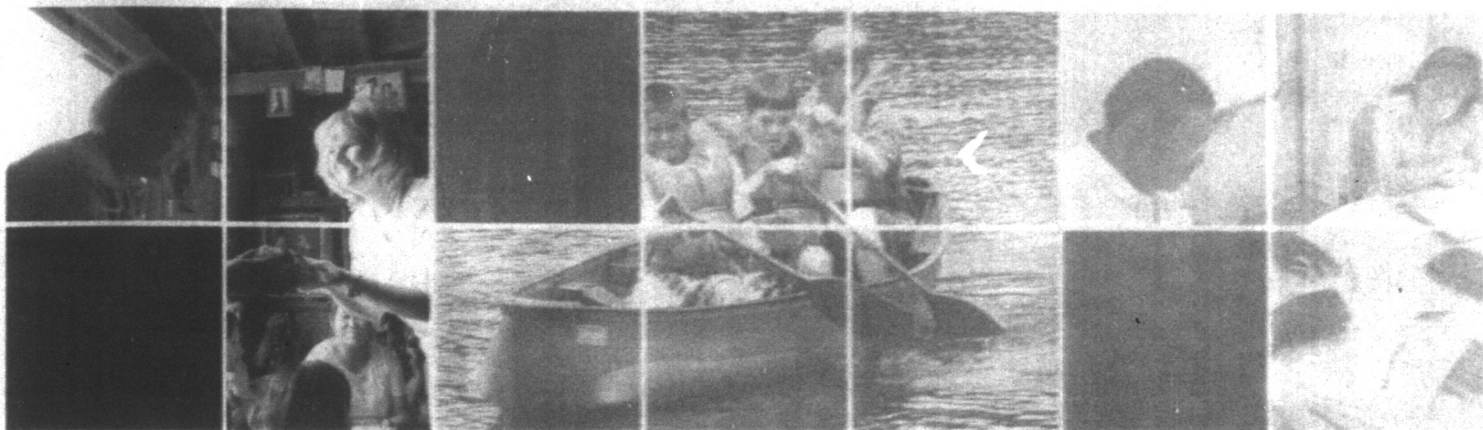
Additionally, Clark Whitten, youth minister at Harmony Hill Church in Burnsville (Tishomingo Association), was on site with his mission group that particular week working on the trailers as well as helping serve through Backyard Bible Clubs. "We first came down here two years ago," Whitten said. "That year we did just Backyard Bible

Clubs. This year we got back in touch with Brian and found that we would really be doing work. It's been good for the kids."

"Not only is PGC a boon for Gulf Coast churches, Partnership Gulf Coast is blessing other churches throughout the state," said Williams. "A pastor brought his church to participate in PGC and discovered that Backyard Bible Clubs can be used to revolutionize ministry within his own community. A Jasper County church was so enthused from ministering on the coast this summer that when they returned home, they went door-to-door inviting people to their Vacation Bible School, resulting in an additional 47 children attending and three baptisms."

"PGC would not have this influence on the ministries of churches in Mississippi, if not for the gracious giving of Mississippi Baptists to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering," Williams said. "Because of these gifts, in five years, almost one hundred people have come to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, Bible stories have been shared over 400 times, and new ministries have blossomed."





## DISASTER RELIEF

# Disaster relief vols: Lackey funding crucial

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

On April 28, 2014, Louisville was struck by an EF4 tornado. The community was devastated, with over 352 homes destroyed and another 50 homes significantly damaged. There were ten fatalities.

A year later to the day, a special service was held to dedicate a new memorial gardens located at 416 East John C. Stennis Drive. On an overcast and blustery day, several local, state, and national officials participated in a moving tribute and dedication to those lives lost in the storm.

Gov. Phil Bryant was the keynote speaker. "On the day of the tornado, I got word that storms were approaching Mississippi," he said. "I returned home, but the First Lady was in Smithville. We realized that the storm system that was approaching was going to be devastating. It seemed impossible to believe that perhaps 20 tornadoes would touch down in our beloved Mississippi. We learned that an EF4 was approaching Louisville, and I immediately tried to locate the First Lady. She told me that she was approaching Louisville. I knew what was about to occur. The First Lady was headed for shelter in Louisville."

"I would have done anything in my power to stop the tragedy that was about to occur," Bryant continued, "but then you realize that as governor that the only power you have is the power the Good Lord provides. There is no way you can stop the power of a tornado or the fury of the winds. The only thing you can do is to recover and that, with God's help, is what you have done."

Within hours after the tornado struck, Mississippi Baptists were on the scene, responding and helping. "The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering supports some of our disaster relief efforts," said Hubert Yates, pastor of Macedonia Church in Winston Association and disaster coordinator for the area. "When we had those disaster relief personnel in place and the teams formed, they were able to come to the scene and begin their work."

"It isn't about just cleaning up trees and that sort of thing, but it is about knowing there are those who will be helping," Yates said. "Funds and gifts have come in from churches, and



**DEDICATION DAY** - Governor Phil Bryant (center) was the keynote speaker at the April 28, 2015 dedication of the memorial commemorating ten lives lost in the EF4 tornado that struck Louisville on April 28, 2014. Joining the governor were (from left) Hubert Yates, pastor, Macedonia Church in Winston Association; Paul Blanchard, missions director for Winston Association in Louisville; David Keen, pastor of Bethel Church in Winston Association; and Tim Horton, pastor of Salem Church in Leake Association. (Photo by Tony Martin)



**UNFURLED** - Flags representing the service branches of the United States armed forces, prisoners of war, and the U.S. and Mississippi flags are raised for the first time during the memorial dedication service on the one year anniversary of the tornado which struck Louisville on April 28, 2014. (Photo by Tony Martin)

those funds went toward supporting recovery efforts. Funds have helped in purchasing materials to rebuild."

"Early on, the question is, 'Can we hope?'" Yates said. "People asked what they could do. I said that they can pray and work as a representative of Christ. I was changed, because the storm taught me compassion."

Yates said there is a need to have funds in place before disaster strikes, and the Margaret Lackey offering helps provide those funds. "You never know when disaster is going to hit," he said. "I want to encourage people to support the Margaret Lackey offering, because it does hit the ground running in the efforts to recover and rebuild."

## Criminal Justice Ministries | \$60,000

Margaret Lackey helps Criminal Justice chaplains minister to offenders, their families, prison workers, and victims of crime. A gift of \$50 provides ten Free on the Inside Bibles. For More information contact Charles Jones 662.721.0264 or John Henry 601.508.0293

## Language/Deaf Ministry | \$30,000

Margaret Lackey makes sure our non-reading and non-hearing neighbors have access to the gospel. A \$15 gift purchases a "Good News" workbook for English Language Learners. Call Paula Smith 800.748.1651 or 601.292.3336 for more information about Language Ministry, or Jim Booth 601.201.3361 for more about the Deaf Ministry.

## Cross Cultural Evangelism | \$25,000

Mississippi Baptists worship in seven different languages every Sunday. Preparing spiritual leaders among our Choctaw, Hispanic, Chinese, Korean, and African-American neighbors brings God's Kingdom to fulfillment within our state. A \$5 gift purchases a foreign language Bible. David Michel has more information: 800.748.1651 or 601.292.3231.

## CWJC/CMJC® | \$20,000

Twenty-four percent of Mississippi's population lives below the poverty line. Christian Men's/Women's Job Corps combines discipleship and job skill training to assist men and women move out of poverty. A gift of \$20 provides "What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty," a resource for training ministry volunteers. Tommy Anderson 800.748.1651, ext. 323 or 601.292.3323, tanderson@mbcb.org has more information.

## Collegiate Outreach | \$10,000

The whole world has come to Mississippi on our college campuses. Margaret Lackey helps to fund student interns who work in ethnic evangelism and international student ministries. \$20 provides free BSU lunches for an international student for the semester. Weaver McCracken has more information: 800.748.1651 or 601.292.3302.

## Port Ministry | \$10,000

Over 5,000 seafarers visit our state every year and many meet Jesus while they are here. A \$5 gift buys the JESUS Video that they may take home with them. Adrian Turner 228.623.0103 has information about the Pascagoula Ministry, and Steve Mooneyham 228.932.4311 has more information about the Gulfport Ministry.



## DISASTER RELIEF

# Stranger's Rest rises from brink of destruction

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

When a powerful tornado swept through the flatlands of the Mississippi Delta's Tunica County on Dec. 21, 2013, Stranger's Rest Church in Dundee was nearly destroyed. What was left of the building was uninhabitable, but news of the church's plight brought an instant response from local churches of different denominations as well North Delta Association in Clarksdale and other Baptist associations.

With the unfailing help of those volunteers and significant funding from the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, Stranger's Rest made a quick comeback.

"This was a joint effort. Almost 100% of the rebuild was provided by volunteer labor, just about everything but the foundation," said Hank Lee, North Delta's missions director.

The original cornerstone of the church was laid Nov. 20, 1921. The church had been rebuilt and renovated before, but not to the extent made necessary by the 2013 twister. The church was rebuilt in 18 months, debt-free with prayer, donations, materials, and volunteer labor from across Mississippi and churches in many states including Arkansas, Missouri, and South Carolina.

"There were several Mississippi churches who helped with the rebuild," said Lee. "There were churches from Oxford, Tupelo, Pontotoc, and others. We even crossed denominational lines, with Presbyterian and other local churches helping. The two churches from North Carolina brought material and provided labor. One of those churches was able to do all the electrical work, and what they did even surpassed the building codes."

Stranger's Rest Church is pastored by Robert Lenair, a leader in North Delta Association for many years. He was associational moderator for two years — the first African-American to do so in the history of the Mississippi Baptist Convention — and has worked closely with convention board personnel for two decades.



LENAIR



BEFORE



AFTER

Among those participating in the dedication service were:

- Hank Lee, emcee.
- Loretta Lenair, pastor's wife, providing welcome.
- Larry Kilgore, pastor of Crowder Church, Crowder, music leader.
- Danny Smith, pastor of First Church, Tunica, playing piano and reading Scripture.
- Kenneth Rucker, pastor of Spruce St. Church, Clarksdale, leading in prayer.
- J.W. Johnson, special music.

- Joel Stroud, pastor of Lyon Church, Lyon, introduction of speaker.
- David Michel, associate executive director for mission strategy at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, dedication message.
- Ruthie Dickson, special music.
- Robert Lenair, act of dedication;
- Paul Husband, pastor of Tunica Presbyterian Church, Tunica, prayer of dedication
- Gary Richardson, pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford, words of encouragement.

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 5:15-20

### IN CHRIST WE FIND NEW PERSPECTIVE (15-16)

The Apostle Paul shares an insight for missional motivation when he describes how he views people. We should see them through the eyes of Christ, not as sinful people, but in terms of what they can become through spiritual transformation. We should also use that new perspective as we engage our neighbors in state missions. Margaret Lackey helps us envision youngsters at camp as future missionaries, regular church members becoming short-term international missionaries, and college students becoming church planters.

### IN CHRIST WE FIND NEW POTENTIAL (17)

The God of creation, raised Christ from the dead. Those who trust Christ receive the resurrection power of God and enjoy the unexpected blessing of "new creation." Although we often feel personally inadequate for fulfilling God's will, we have unlimited access to His missional power. Our witness and compassionate activities carry the potential for re-creating the lives of our neighbors. Margaret Lackey engages in life-changing ministries that teach people to read, prepare them for the job market, or rescue them from drug addiction or prison.

### IN CHRIST WE FIND NEW PURPOSE (18-20)

Those whose lives have been re-created, become witnesses for Christ. Paul calls us "ambassadors" and indicates that God uses our new-life experience to reach out to others with the hope of finding life worth living. Margaret Lackey challenges us to become missionary ambassadors also. We can share our financial resources by making a generous offering. We can encourage others to join us by promoting the offering in our local congregation. We can receive missionary training in literacy, disaster relief, or cross-cultural ministry and become active participants in God's design to make Mississippi "A New Creation" within His eternal creation.

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CSV JNARX: SV CSOC WNRNJVCS QV

BSORR DNC JORP UD XOAPDVBB, GHC

BSORR SOIV CSV RULSC NW RUWV.

ZNSD VULSC: CJVRIV

**Clue: H = U**

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 8:40

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death! (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)  
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## MS POSITIONS

OAK HILL CHURCH IN MERIDIAN IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY. Send resume to P.O. Box 3938, Meridian, MS 39303.

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, ROXIE IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 550 Hamburg Rd., Roxie, MS 39661.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SUMRALL, MISS., SEEKS FULL-TIME MINISTER TO CHILDREN/DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES. Bachelor's degree required (seminary preferred); prior experience working with children and in congregational or organizational setting required (experience as children's minister or equivalent preferred). Send resume and cover letter to office@fbcsumrall.org.

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IN INDIANOLA, MS. IS IN SEARCH OF A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, P. O. Box 466, Indianola, Ms. 38751 or e-mail to Shirley Betts at s\_betts@bellsouth.net.

THE COLLABORATIVE MISSIONARY NETWORK, FORMERLY MARSHALL AND LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATIONS, IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Send resumes to PO Box 422, Oxford, MS 38655 or lafaan@bellsouth.net.

BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME CHRISTIAN, COMPASSIONATE CHURCH SECRETARY with a minimum of 1 year experience performing general office work. Excellent computer knowledge and telephone skills will be a plus. Resumes will ONLY be accepted by mail: Search Committee, 510 Lake Valley Drive, Starkville, MS 39759 or by e-mail: sr\_parker@bellsouth.net.

GUNTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLORENCE, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please submit resumes to Gunter Road Search Committee C/O Craig Dukes 2209 Woodland Place Florence, MS 39073 or rdukes@bellsouth.net.

### YOU ARE INVITED

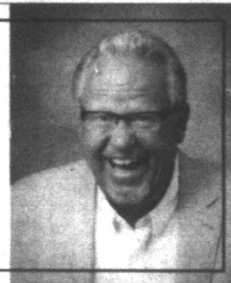
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## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG

format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed.

Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

## RACE

cont. from p. 1

Praise Team and Lawrence and Yolanda Overbey.

"For anyone who came to the conference, they left with their vision enlarged, their hearts uplifted and a better understanding of how much we need each other to reach our state and our world for Christ," said Futral. "This was a first-time-ever conference of this type, so in hindsight we see room for improvement."

"On the other hand, it would be virtually impossible to enlarge on the great efforts made by so many to make the conference successful, and I don't know that it would be possible to have enlisted better conference speakers or leaders. The Lord used them and blessed all of us."

David Michel, MBCB associate executive director for mission strategy who supervised planning for the conference, said, "Can We Talk? opened an often neglected topic among church leaders regarding the racial segregation of Sunday morning worship times, and suggested ways of collaborating together better in the future. One of the best results was the participation of influential black leaders from across Mississippi who are open to designing and implementing collaborative Gospel initiatives in their communities."

McNairy wrapped up his comments about the conference by saying, "Prayer, fellowship, new friendships, equipping, praise and worship, and conversation around racial reconciliation, Gospel collaboration, and missional discipling were some of what took place at the Can We Talk?"

"It was the right thing to do — the God thing to do — at the right time to do it."

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



**Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director**

P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

[www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com)

## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**JUNE 2015**

### MEMORIALS

Jimmy Lynn Gatlin III  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy B. Carruth  
Jean Geiger  
Ms. Joan S. Kiser  
Becky Gill  
Mrs. Jane D. Woodruff  
Mr. Larry Gordon  
Rev. & Mrs. William B. Webb  
Charles E. Grayson  
Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Adcock  
Vera Harpole  
Scooba BC  
Edna Earl Harrington  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Steele  
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Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humhreys  
Mr. Michael "Mike" E. Hines  
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Carol Randall  
Daniel, Dianne & Alissa Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Patton  
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Ms. Barbara B. Behrends  
Shelton Holliday  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis J. Dugas  
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Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion  
Jerry Hooks  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Barham  
Mrs. Dean Spears Hudgens  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Dr. Don Hughes  
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Mr. & Mrs. Jim Parkman  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hathorn  
Bethany BC  
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Speights  
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Buddy Russell SSC, Arlington BC  
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Mr. Dennis "Bud" McNease  
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Howell McNeill  
Mrs. Louise Hughes  
Thomas L. Minyard

Arlington Heights BC  
Rev. J. C. Mitchell  
Longview BC  
Mrs. Mize  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Taylor  
Thomas Monsour  
Bovina BC  
Bobbie Mooney  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brents  
Mrs. Faye McKee  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E. Breakfield  
Mr. Gary McKee  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E. Breakfield  
Ms. Marveen Moody  
Mrs. Eunice Williams Moody  
Mrs. Libby Murtagh  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Don Naquin  
Mr. Charles Benton  
William Bryant Nelms  
Mr. & Mrs. Hembree Brandon  
Payton Netherland  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mr. R. H. Nunnery  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Marie Orr  
Mr. & Mrs. David Cotton Foster  
Gerald Parish  
Mrs. Joe D. Roberts  
Gwen Pennington  
Mrs. Charlotte Vickers  
Mrs. Katherine Phillips  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Lorraine Pigott  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Brock  
Kathleen Polk  
Mrs. Syble Lee  
Sandra Powell  
Ms. Kaye M. Henderson & Gregg  
Elwood Prentiss  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Mrs. Edwena Price  
Mike, Janis & Ben Goff  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregg T. Tindle  
Mr. & Mrs. Percy J. Peeler  
Melanie Priest  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Dixon  
Mrs. Ann Rayner  
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts  
Mr. Carey Revels  
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts  
Bea Reynolds  
Mr. & Mrs. Adair Blackledge  
Ryan & Mary Margaret Simmons  
David Rigdon  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Blair  
Mrs. Izella Robbins  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Glen Polk  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe D. Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Robbins  
Mrs. Pat Greene  
Ms. Connie E. Poland  
Allen Ross  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Jannette Rowsey  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald M. Aven, Jr.  
Mrs. Emily Royalty  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Glen Polk  
Louie Ruffin  
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Strickland  
Ms. Catherine Rushing  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Mr. Ronald Rutherford  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Betty Jean Sanford  
Mrs. Syble Lee  
J. C. Sexton  
Mrs. W. J. Thompson  
Martha Shackelford  
Dorothy Burdeshaw  
Henry Shelby  
Mrs. Shirley Hastings  
Cade Shoemaker  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew J. Churchwell  
Lucy Simmons  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Lib Skee  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Keeler  
Ms. Tawanda Y. Lea  
Bro. Harvey Springer  
Don Montgomery  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack McRee

Providence BC  
Leo Steen  
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Peeples  
Rev. Donnie L. Stewart  
Gore, Kilpatrick & Dambrino,

PLLC  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry P. Franklin  
Mr. Mark Scobey  
Mrs. Belinda Tatum  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins

Clifton Terrell  
Mr. & Mrs. M. E. "Sonny"  
Newton, Jr.  
Dr. Ed Thompson  
Ms. Elizabeth T. Wood

## INTAKE AND OUTREACH SPECIALIST OPENING

The BCV has an immediate opening for an individual to fill the position of Intake and Outreach Specialist in its central office in Ridgeland, MS. The individual filling this position must be a mature, Christian adult, with personal integrity, Christian character and sound reputation. This individual must have a demonstrated commitment to the ethical standards incumbent upon each staff member of the BCV staff and an appreciation of the confidentiality extended to children and families served by the BCV. The successful candidate for this position must have a bachelor's degree in a behavioral or social science field and a demonstrated ability to cultivate adaptive relationships with both children and adults. This individual must also have the ability to effectively communicate, through both written and spoken language, exhibit sound judgment, tact and assertiveness. This person must be able to work effectively with referral sources, agency clients and their families, and BCV staff. As this position requires working both at the central office, and traveling across the state to conduct intake interviews and to meet with potential referral sources, successful candidates for this position must have a relatively flexible schedule and be able to travel accordingly. However, no overnight travel is expected.

To apply for Intake and Outreach Specialist position, download an application at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com) and send it, along with a statement of faith and a resume to Kristen Slaven at [kslaven@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:kslaven@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or mail to The Baptist Children's Village C/O Kristen Slaven at 114 Marketridge Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).



## The Worthy Lamb • Revelation 5:1-14

If you are reading this, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations! Among other things, it indicates you survived the first round of our State's election year process known as the primaries. Now, you can settle in to three more months of television commercials, newspaper ads, pieces of mail, yard signs, bumper stickers and radio spots all promoting the various candidates. As arduous as it is, I enjoy watching the political process unfold in Mississippi every four years. It is a reminder that we are still in a free nation and have the great opportunity to share our voice in things that matter. Of course, there is a downside to the political machine. I have always found it a bit strange that a candidate can bash his/her opponent and highlight their own Christian faith in the next breath. I have said for years the candidate we vote for is usually the one we feel we will benefit from the most. That is not necessarily a good thing, but a true observation.

What is your measuring stick when considering a candidate? Someone who is the most qualified? Someone in your political party? Someone you know personally? Someone promoting change? Perhaps your criteria is anyone but the one holding the particular office at the

time. Each of us have in our mind a list of requirements when voting for someone. Most often, the list of requirements we possess for our leaders is more strenuous than the one we keep for ourselves. We are looking for someone with answers that we may not have to get things done in which we are not capable.

When it comes to Jesus, He is the only One who is qualified, capable and worthy to be our All-Sufficient Savior and Lord.

Revelation 5 is crucial to having a better grasp on the book as a whole. The purpose of Chapter 5 is to introduce the reader to the key character in the book: the Lamb. This chapter is best taught with three components in mind. First, the question, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break the seals?" (5:2). Next, the coming of the Lamb to take the scroll (5:7) and finally, the response to the action that builds to a climax in 5:8-14.

In 5:4 John begins to weep because no

one was found worthy to open the book or look into it. However, as quickly as John begins to weep, his tears cease. This is a good reminder that should not be skipped over. Why was John crying? Was he grieved over the seven churches and their errors? Was he overwhelmed by the things he had witnessed? Perhaps his tears were the preface to a reminder that God was in control. Sometimes we express tears when we think we are in a hopeless situation. From John's

tears, (and often ours) God is gently reminding us that He is in control.

Did you notice when John's tears came to an end? The tears ended

when He saw Jesus. That fact is a great encouragement to me and an equally great reminder. Jesus changes everything! At the appearance of Jesus we are introduced to a song in 5:12. A song that is beautifully sung by literally thousands and thousands of angels gathered around the throne. The theme of the song is the wor-

thiness of the Lamb. Our minds simply cannot process how magnificent it will be when we see Jesus. We will not fully appreciate nor totally worship Christ until we see Him face to face. At that moment, there will be no doubt how worthy our Lord is.

One of my favorite cartoons in the newspaper is Dennis the Menace. You might be surprised, but there is a lot of good theology in the cartoon section. One particular day, Dennis and his friend Joey were eating cookies baked by Mrs. Wilson. Dennis stated to Joey, "Mrs. Wilson doesn't make us cookies because we are good, she makes us cookies because she is good!" May I relieve you of an unnecessary burden? There is a reason sometimes you may not feel like a worthy recipient of the salvation of Jesus: you aren't! Be encouraged that in Jesus we have a gracious Savior who is worthy of our praise and the only One qualified to forgive us our sins and grant everlasting life. We cannot do that for ourselves. And think: He does all of this and more without any annoying television commercials or asking for our vote every four years. Now, that is praise-worthy!

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.

## Return to God's Word • Nehemiah 8

My background in missions has placed me teaching Bible lessons to children. One summer during high school, I led a Bible Club in my hometown of Ethel. As I arrived, I realized I had left my Bible at home so I told the lesson from memory. The next day I grabbed my Bible from home and then opened it as I shared the lesson. One little girl quickly raised her hand. I called on her and she said, "Well, I was wondering where you got that story from yesterday!" Since then, I promise I always teach with my Bible in hand!

The people of Jerusalem did not forget that God's word held truth and they desired to hear it and follow the word of God. Their actions in this lesson are certainly worth imitating!

### Eagerness for God's word

Nehemiah 8:1 states, "All the people gathered together at the square in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses that the LORD had given Israel." The fact that the people agreed and gathered together is evidence of the Holy Spirit working in them to desire to hear God's word. Ezra was a part of the rebuilding of Jerusalem. Because he was a scribe, he had a deep commitment to the accuracy of God's word and because He

was also a priest he was fully committed to God. The book of the law of Moses would have included (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). This was Israel's instruction manual for how to walk before God.

### Intentional Lifestyle for God's word

Nehemiah 8: 2-3 The phrase "all who could listen with understanding" leads me to believe that children were a part of the group.

I can't help but picture a Daddy standing with his arm around his young son, head inclined to God's word and a smile on his face as both generations listen to the word of God spoken. It's important to note Ezra chose to read God's word at the place where the people gathered the water necessary for life in the city. Ephesians 5:26 tells us we can be holy by the washing of the water by the word. Psalm 119:9 states "How can a young man keep his way pure? Be

keeping it according to Your word." (NASB) The word of God has power to transform us, to recreate us and to urge us to do what God wants us to.

### Respect for God's word

Verses 5 and 6 tell us that Ezra opened up the book of the law in full view of everyone. They did the practical-building a platform so that God's word could be heard and seen above the crowd so that they could

experience the spiritual. They prepared to hear God's word in the best environment possible. The platform also shows

respect for God's word-which it is to be elevated, above all other words we may hear or read. The response was that the people stood to hear God's word. Their respect for the message from God showed in their posture and attention.

Ezra led them to worship God with hands raised and loud Amen's! The people

then fell down with heads bowed and worshipped the Lord.

### Understanding God's Word

In verses seven and eight, it looks like the people divided into small groups and leaders explained the words they had just heard. The verse tells us that specific leaders translated and gave meaning to what Ezra read so the people could understand. While I am not positive the structure of how this happened, the scripture does certainly show us that other leaders in addition to Ezra helped the people to have understanding and application of the word of God.

Patrick Henry said, "The Bible is worth all the other books which have ever been printed." (brainyquote.com). I wonder though, do we realize its worth in our lives? We live in a time in history that we can have God's word in our lives in so many ways on audio CD; podcasts on our phone, apps with daily devotions, and audio apps on our computer...the list goes on and on. Take time today to STOP. Read or listen to what God wants to say to you...God has a Word just for you! Believe it!

Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon, and a speaker for women's events.

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Locke Station Church, Panola Association:** Revival, Aug. 9 - 12; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; James Lewis, speaker; Rusty Miller, pastor.  
► **Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville:** 160th anniversary and homecoming, Aug. 9; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; John Sapp, speaker;

Dionne Williams, music.  
► **Bala Chitto Church, Pike Association:** Revival and homecoming, Aug. 14, 7 p.m. and Aug. 15, 6 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 16, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds. Wayne Dubose, speaker; Dave Hartson, pastor.  
► **Lantrip Church, Bruce:** Re-

vival, Aug. 9 - 12; Sun. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Brion Whitten, Jason Watts, Jeff Harmon, and Sherman Barnett, speakers; Janae Winter, music; Deanna Wotten, pianist; Robert Earl Alexander, pastor.  
► **Fellowship Church, Ellisville:** 167th anniversary and homecoming, Aug. 9; worship, 10 a.m., followed by special music and fellowship meal; Cecil Hawthorne, speaker; Cassie Howell, music.  
► **Cedar View Church, Olive**

**Branch:** Homecoming, Aug. 9; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by meal and afternoon singing; Richard Hamlet, speaker.  
► **Spring Hill Church, Waterford:** Revival, Aug. 9 - 12; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Paul Middleton, speaker; Carl and Pansy Ray, music; John Parker, pastor.  
► **New Home Church, Bay Springs:** Homecoming, Aug. 9; services, 11 a.m., followed by potluck dinner and afternoon service; pastor Eddie Bryant,

speaker; Hunter May, music.  
► **Mars Hill Church, Amite County:** recently celebrated its 200th anniversary. Shown are youth pastor Jared Leonard, pastor Dan Graddy, and guest worship leader Randy Carruth.  
► **Magee's Creek Church, Waltham County:** Homecoming, Aug. 9; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Michael Knippers, speaker; Adrian Wood, William Anthony, and Good Hope Road quartet, music.

## Just for the Record



Students and leaders from **LIBERTY CHURCH, FLOWOOD**, participated in a World Changers project in Guayama, Puerto Rico, July 12 - 18.



Students from **FIRST CHURCH, TREMONT**, went on a mission trip to St. Louis.



Girls from **FIRST CHURCH, MORTON**, attended camp at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center.



**NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH, MCCOMB**, ordained student pastor Trey Hess into the Gospel ministry July 26. Shown are pastor Rick Kennedy, Hess, and Barry Lomax.

### In other Church News:

➤ **Calvary Church, Yazoo City**, is preparing to tear down their old auditorium, with the church's final service in the building being Aug. 16. Former members are invited to attend the service at 11 a.m. Scott Kellum, speaker; meal and fellowship following.

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IN THEATERS  
**AUGUST 28**

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